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Rome PA serves both country and community

by 2nd Lt. Morgan J. O'Brien III, AFRL Public Affairs

ROME, N.Y. — Everyday, employees of Air Force Research Laboratory do their part in protecting democracy and keeping this country great. Some AFRL personnel take this role to another level, serving their communities in addition to the nation.

Fran Crumb, who serves as chief of public affairs for the AFRL's Information Directorate at the Rome Research Site, Rome, N.Y., also holds the position of trustee for the Village of Holland Patent, and serves as the village's public safety commissioner.

Holland Patent is a small community of about 450 residents. Set upon Route 365, the main route to the Adirondack Mountains from Rome and western New York State, Holland Patent is a caucus-type, non-partisan government. Similar types of local governments are common in the areas surrounding military installations, so that no issues of politico-military matters prevent federal employees from actively participating in the government.

"People from Griffiss and Rome Research Site have served on the board of the village for the better part of the last half century. There is strong support for the community from the laboratory community and vice versa," said Crumb. "I took this opportunity to serve mainly because community involvement is such a tradition here at Rome."

Crumb was elected trustee in March 1992. Previously, he served as a member of the board of directors of Citizens for Appropriate Landfill and Incineration Sites, a rural Oneida County citizens organization founded in May 1989, after three sites in the town of Trenton were identified as top sites for a two-county hazardous waste dump.

After joining the staff of the Utica Daily Press as a sportswriter in June 1967, Crumb enlisted in the U.S. Army in December of that year. After receiving basic training and advanced infantry training at Ft. Dix, N.J., he was assigned to Headquar-



Fran Crumb, with son, Kevin, in front of Notre Dame's famous Sacred Heart Church and gold dome atop the administration building. Kevin, one of Fran's children, is a senior at Notre Dame. (Photo provided by Fran Crumb)

ters U.S. Army, the Pentagon, where he served as a clerk in the Office of Personnel Operations, Enlisted Personnel Directorate, until receiving his discharge in December 1969.

Crumb returned to the staff of the Utica newspaper and served in various reporting and editorial positions prior to joining the staff of Rome Air Development Center in February 1984, and assumed his present duties in November 1990.

Crumb characterizes his responsibilities for AFRL as, "a lot of positive." He enjoys getting the word out on the various technologies the lab is working on.

"There are lots of good news stories, since people enjoy getting the most for their tax dollars. It is different from a base — no noise complaints, just research and development," said Crumb. @